

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] the Soviet atomic energy program; [redacted] it is under the Council of Ministers of the USSR. L.P. Beriya formerly exercised top direction of the program, [redacted] V.A. Malyshev is in some way connected with the atomic energy program.

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2. The Soviet atomic energy program has always been entirely separate from the MVD/MGB. Personnel from these ministries, have, however, been assigned to it. In 1946, when the Fourth Directorate of the MGB was abolished, many of its officers, including its chief, MGB Major General P.A. Sudoplatov, were transferred to a new organization responsible for the counterintelligence protection of the atomic energy program. This organization, [redacted] was under the Council of Ministers. Because of the nature of its work, this organization maintained liaison with the then Second Chief Directorate of the MGB. Some officers of the First Chief Directorate of the MGB were also transferred to the atomic energy organization proper. A number of top men from the MVD were assigned to the program, presumably at Beriya's request. Once transferred, all of these MVD/MGB officers came under Beriya's personal jurisdiction. However, Beriya did not exercise top-level supervision of the MVD and the MGB in the post-war period, as generally believed, because the MVD/MGB were controlled by the Central Committee of the CPSU. In addition to providing personnel, the MVD also supports the atomic energy program by providing convict labor for the extraction of uranium ore.

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3. In 1948 or 1949, [redacted] the well-known physicist Petr Kapitza was unfavorably regarded by the Soviet Government. [redacted] his loyalty was considered questionable. Kapitza had been responsible for basic research in the field

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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of nuclear physics during World War II, but his work met with no success. It was felt that he was deliberately dragging his feet while the capitalist countries were forging ahead. [redacted] Kapitsa may have been briefly held in custody, as a means of stimulating the progress of his research. [redacted] Kapitsa made little progress until a) espionage [redacted] made the Soviets privy to Western research data, and b) considerable numbers of German scientists and physicists were brought to the USSR.

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4. [redacted] the Soviet atomic energy program is financed by a confidential (neglasnyy) allocation. [redacted] no idea of the size of this allocation, but assumes that it is not small.

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